

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03572 291828Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 PM-07 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 COME-00 DODE-00

DOE-00 EB-11 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02

AEC-11 TRSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 291719Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6963

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, TECH, INCO, EEC

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS

REF: STATE 101143

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COMMISSION HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN SHIPOWNERS TO BUILD A NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSEL BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS WORKING ON NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSELS HOPE TO BE GIVEN FUNDING TO BEGIN LEGAL AND TECHNICAL STUDIES ON NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSELS IN 1975. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 03572 291828Z

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, ON MAY 28, WE SPOKE TO FABRICIO CACCIA DOMINIONI, THE DIRECTOR FOR NUCLEAR AND ENERGY SECTORS IN THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS. DOMINIONI SAID THAT BECUASE OF THE RISE IN OIL PRICES THERE HAS BEEN A RENEWED INTEREST IN THE COMMISSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS.

3. ACCORDING TO CACCIA,THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND HAS BEEN TRYING TO ENCOURAGE EUROPEAN SHIPOWNERS TO SET UP A JOINT VENTURE TO ORDER A NCULEAR MERCHANT VESSEL AND OPERATE IT WITHIN THE REGULAR MERCHANT FLEET. THE COMMISSION HAS PRESENTED THE SHIPOWNERS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF GIVING SUCH A JOINT VENTURE "JOINT UNDERTAKING" STATUS AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLES 45-51 OF THE EURATOM TREATY. SUCH STATUS COULD PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FISCAL AND CUSTOMS ADVANTAGES (SEE ANNEX III OF THE EURATOM TREATY). CACCIA ALSO MENTIONED THAT SUCH A "JOINT UNDERTAKING" MIGHT HAVE ITS "NUCLEAR OVERCOSTS" SUBSIDIZED. CACCIA SAID THAT THE SHIPOWNERS, WHO ARE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS, ARE VERY HESITANT ABOUT MAKING THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH A NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSEL AND THAT TALKS ARE STILL GOING ON.

4. REGARDING STUDIES, CACCIA SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE TWO TYPES OF STUDIES UNDERTAKEN. A MODEST PROPOSAL IS FOR PAPER STUDIES ON LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT AFFECT NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSELS. A MORE AMBITIOUS STUDY PROGRAM, INVOLVING A FEW MILLION DOLLARS, WOULD LOOK INTO SUCH MATTERS AS THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR SHIP OPERATIONS ANS SPECIFICALLY REFUELING. THE COMMISSION HOPES FOR A DECISION ON THE TWO TYPES OF RESEARCH BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 03572 291828Z

5. CACCIA CONCLUDED BY SAYING THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL (READ SUPPLIER) INTERESST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS AND THAT THE COMMISSION WAS READY TO PROVIDE A "FRAMEWORK" IF THE SHIPOWNERS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF A NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSEL.MYERSON

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